

Application No.: 10/717,838

Docket No.: ENB-006RCE

**REMARKS**

In this Response, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20-23, 25-27, 29 and 31. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14-16, 18-23, 25-27 and 29-31 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 are independent. No new matter has been added.

**I. Telephone Interview with the Examiner**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on November 5, 2008. During the interview, Applicants discussed proposed amendments to independent claim 1 to improve clarity and readability of the claim. Applicants also discussed key features of the claimed invention, and argued that U.S. Patent No. 6,104,393 to Santos-Gomez (hereafter "Santos-Gomez") and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0098313 to Agrawal (hereafter "Agrawal"), alone or in any combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1. More specifically, Applicants argued that a combination of the references does not disclose, teach or suggest "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task," as recited in amended independent claim 1.

**II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20-23, 25-27, 29 and 31**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20-23, 25-27, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Santos-Gomez in view of Agrawal. Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20-23, 25-27, 29 and 31 as set forth below.

**A. Claim 1**

Applicants respectfully submit that Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 1: "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum

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corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task."

In one aspect of the claimed invention, the system dynamically determines whether a new sub-task needs to be performed. This dynamic determination is performed based on a change in datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task (Specification, page 21, lines 9-11). In the graphical user interface illustrated in Applicants' Figure 2, a sub-task list 202 presents a user with a list of sub-tasks, and a sub-task panel 204 allows the user to enter information in the respective panels of the sub-tasks. For example, the user may enter information 218 in the sub-task panel to specify the "Type" parameter to have the datum "IP" for the sub-task 206 ("Rule Info") (Specification, page 21, lines 12-21). The system may dynamically determine that the change of the datum to "IP" requires that a new sub-task 208 ("IP Addresses") be performed (Specification, page 21, lines 12-21). As a result, the system may automatically update the sub-task list 202 to include this new sub-task 208 (Specification, page 21, lines 12-21). Thus, the sub-task list 202 acts as a set of sub-task items which is dynamically updated during the user's performance of the overall task.

Santos-Gomez does not teach or suggest "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task," as recited in claim 1.

Column 8, lines 35-45 of Santos-Gomez discusses creating and fully defining a new target object. A target object is the subject of a user's actions, e.g. "Disk space usage" automation 102 shown in Figure 3A (Santos-Gomez, column 5, lines 32-35). When a new target object is fully defined, the target object area 100 is updated to show this new object among the other target objects that have been defined previously (Santos-Gomez, column 8, lines 35-45).

Thus, in Santos-Gomez, a new target object is added **only in response to a user instruction to create a new object**, e.g. by selecting the "create new object" option. More simply, Santos-Gomez is considered static in that if the interface receives a required datatype it merely moves to the next step. That is, Santos-Gomez does not dynamically determine which are the next steps based on a datum entered in a current step.

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In contrast, claim 1 requires **dynamically determining** a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user. Santos-Gomez does not teach or suggest dynamically determining that a new target object to the target object area 100 needs to be added based on a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another target object. As such, Santos-Gomez does not teach or suggest "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task," as recited in claim 1.

The teachings of Agrawal do not supplement Santos-Gomez in such a way as to cure the shortcomings of Santos-Gomez with respect to the features of independent claim 1.

Figure 6 of Agrawal illustrates a web page showing how a user can manage pay pages and pay boxes through the service provider site (Agrawal, paragraph 26). More specifically, Figure 6 shows fields for pay page settings, e.g. the title and color scheme of the pay page, the pay page image, etc. Input fields are provided for each setting, and default values may be provided in the input fields. A user can modify the default value of a setting by pressing the "Edit" button corresponding to the setting (Agrawal, paragraphs 110 and 112).

Thus, Agrawal teaches modifying a pay page setting by entering a modified value within its input field (Agrawal, paragraphs 110 and 112). The modified value then appears in the same input field of the setting (Agrawal, paragraphs 110 and 112). The pay page in Agrawal is static and is not updated to include any new sub-tasks or fields. In contrast, claim 1 requires **dynamically determining a new sub-task based on a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task**. As such, Agrawal does not teach or suggest "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task," as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons presented above, Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not support a valid 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

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**B. Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10**

Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10 depend from independent claim 1 and, as such, incorporate all of the elements of claim 1. Accordingly claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10.

**C. Claim 11**

Applicants respectfully submit that Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 11: "(E) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and (F) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task."

As noted above in connection with claim 1, a combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not teach or suggest dynamically determining a new sub-task based on a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of a sub-task, and automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task. For at least the reasons presented above, Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 11. Therefore, the combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not support a valid 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 11.

**D. Claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 20**

Claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 20 depend from independent claim 11 and, as such, incorporate all of the elements of claim 11. Accordingly claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 11. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 20.

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E. Claim 21

Applicants respectfully submit that Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 21: "means for operating the task performance component to dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and means for automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task."

As noted above in connection with claim 1, a combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not teach or suggest dynamically determining a new sub-task based on a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of a sub-task, and automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task. For at least the reasons presented above, Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 21. Therefore, the combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not support a valid 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 21.

F. Claim 22

Applicants respectfully submit that Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 22: "(E) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and (F) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task."

As noted above in connection with claim 1, a combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not teach or suggest dynamically determining a new sub-task based on a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of a sub-task, and automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task. For at least the reasons presented above, Santos-Gomez and Agrawal, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 22. Therefore, the combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not support a valid 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 22.

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**G. Claims 23, 25-27, 29 and 31**

Claims 23, 25-27, 29 and 31 depend from independent claim 22 and, as such, incorporate all of the elements of claim 22. Accordingly claims 23, 25-27, 29 and 31 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 22. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 23, 25-27, 29 and 31.

**III. Rejection of Claims 9, 19 and 30**

Claims 9, 19 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Santos-Gomez and Agrawal in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,622 to Bach et al. (hereafter "Bach"). Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 9, 19 and 30 as set forth below.

A combination of Santos-Gomez, Agrawal and Bach fails to teach or suggest the features of claims 9, 19 and 30. As noted above in connection with claim 1, a combination of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 11 and 22 from which claims 9, 19 and 30 depend, respectively. The teachings of Bach do not supplement Santos-Gomez and Agrawal in such a way as to cure the shortcomings of Santos-Gomez and Agrawal with respect to the features of independent claims 1, 11 and 22.

Bach relates to program specifications for a computer program that accesses datastore persistent objects materialized from a datastore (Bach, abstract). A wizard or task guide is displayed on a monitor attached to a computer, wherein the wizard includes a step-by-step procedure for creating the program specifications (Bach, abstract). Operator input is accepted into the computer in response to the step-by-step procedure and the program specifications are created using the operator input (Bach, abstract).

Bach does not teach or suggest at least the following features of claim 1 from which claim 9 depends: "dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and automatically update the list to include the new sub-task."

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Bach does not teach or suggest at least the following features of claim 11 from which claim 19 depends: "(E) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and (F) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task."

Bach does not teach or suggest at least the following features of claim 22 from which claim 30 depends: "(E) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and (F) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task."

For at least the reasons presented above, Santos-Gomez, Agrawal and Bach, alone or in any reasonable combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claims 9, 19 and 30. Therefore, the combination of Santos-Gomez, Agrawal and Bach does not support a valid 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 9, 19 and 30.

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**CONCLUSION**

In light of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a teleconference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. ENB-006RCE. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized to be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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